

TOWN OF LUNENBURG  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

February 25, 2025 | 6 pm

Lunenburg Town Hall – Council Chamber and virtually through Zoom

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- Present** Mayor Jamie Myra, Deputy Mayor Rachel Bailey, Councillors Renea Babineau, Debbie Dauphinee, Gale Fullerton, Alex Greek and Alison Strachan
- Also present** Marvin MacDonald, Interim CAO  
Tyson Joyce, Director of Public Works  
Marc Kiely, Interim Director of Community Development  
Laura LeGresley, Heritage Officer  
Trevor Hume, Planner  
Kayla Byrne, Legislative & Policy Manager
- Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
- Land acknowledgment** It was acknowledged that Lunenburg is located in the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.
- Approval of Agenda** Moved and seconded that Council approve the February 25, 2025 meeting agenda with the following deletion:
- 6.1 Council Recognition: Celebrating the Retirement of Cris and Karen Comstock
- Motion carried unanimously**
- This item will return at a future meeting.
- Approval of Minutes** Moved and seconded that Council approve the February 11, 2025 meeting minutes as presented.
- Motion carried unanimously**
- Public Input** Wilfred Moore spoke in favour of the issuance of the Certificate of Appropriateness for consideration at tonight's meeting.
- Wendy Rofihe questioned a statement in the new heritage plan suggesting citizens should "rest assured" in staff decisions, fearing it discourages public involvement. She urged better public hearing notifications, suggesting bulletin board postings, newspaper ads, and press releases to improve accessibility for those not on social media.

Duncan Kroll inquired about the future of the electric utility, referencing a previously presented feasibility report. He urged Council to clarify when discussions on the utility's future will take place and how the public can be involved.

Brian Arnott spoke about the importance of international best practices when introducing new buildings in historic contexts. He noted that strictly following the Heritage By-law could set a dangerous precedent, particularly in a UNESCO-designated area.

**Correspondence** Council received two letters about Inter-Provincial Trade Barriers from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and NSFM. With respect to these items, it was noted these issues are being discussed at the provincial level, with an upcoming Zoom meeting involving mayors and CAOs. It was also noted that the Federation of Nova Scotia Municipalities (NSFM) is actively engaged, and updates will be provided once more information is available.

**Business Arising and Unfinished Business** Moved and seconded that Council approve the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the construction of the commercial structure located on Lot 3, Montague Street and the residential structure located on Lot 2, Pelham Street.

**FOR**  
6 Councillors

**AGAINST**  
1 Councillor (Deputy Mayor Bailey)

**Motion carried**

**Affordable Housing Tax Forgiveness Policy** With respect to this policy, staff noted it is no longer recommending that the presented policy be approved as presented and requested that the policy be edited before returning for a final consideration.

Moved and seconded that Council reconfirm its commitment to the development of an Affordable Housing Tax Forgiveness Policy, and that an updated draft policy be presented at a future meeting for Council's consideration.

**Motion carried unanimously**

It was noted that the above motion was sufficient to meet the Housing Accelerator Fund deadlines.

**2025/26 Water Capital Budget** Moved and seconded that Council pre-approve the Dares Lake Dam and Spillway Upgrades Project in the Water Utility's Capital Budget for

2025/26 for the amount of \$1.031M with funding from grants, Water Utility depreciation funds and capital debt.

**Motion carried unanimously**

Sponsorship  
Request: Jennifer  
Collins Classic

Before any discussions on this item, Mayor Myra declared a conflict of interest and left the Council table to sit in the public gallery. Deputy Mayor Bailed assumed chairing responsibilities.

Moved and seconded that Council approve a sponsorship contribution of in-kind support to the Jennifer Collins Classic, consisting of the waiver of non-primetime and weekday morning arena rental fees totalling \$2,960, as well as event promotion through the Town's communication channels and a silent auction item based on the Town's previous silent auction contribution, and authorize the CAO to finalize and sign the sponsorship agreement, in accordance with the Sponsorship and Commemorative Naming Policy and in alignment with Council's direction.

**Motion carried unanimously**

Mayor Myra resumed chairing responsibilities.

Expense and  
Hospitality Policy

Moved and seconded that Council approve the Expense and Hospitality Policy as presented, replacing and repealing the current Council and Management Expense and Hospitality Claims Policy.

**Motion carried unanimously**

Public Input Policy

Moved and seconded that Council approve the Public Input Policy as presented with the exception of the removal of "applause" from Section 13 and that this policy replace and repeal the current Public Presentations at Town Council, Committee of the Whole Council and Committee Meetings Policy.

**Motion carried unanimously**

Notices of  
Motion,  
Information  
Requests and  
Councillor Reports

Council extended congratulations to the newly established South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry Program, with special recognition for Councillor Fullerton's contributions to the program.

Councillors provided updates on other community events and upcoming opportunities, such as the Cultural Tourism Working Group community engagement sessions.

Councillor Strachan presented the following notice of motion: that Council direct staff to explore an application to the Parks Canada Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada for review of the National

Historic Site designation, and that a report on a possible application be presented at a future meeting. This motion will return for consideration at the next regular Council meeting.

Councillor Dauphinee attended a Lunenburg County Senior Safety Partnership Society meeting.

Updates were provided on the recent Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee meetings and upcoming budget options.

Council expressed gratitude to Public Works staff for their snow-clearing and road maintenance efforts.

Closed Session      Moved and seconded that Council move in closed session at 7:13 p.m. to discuss agenda items 14.1 and 14.2 per the Municipal Government Act.  
**Motion carried unanimously**

Adjournment      Council reverted to public session at 8:31 p.m.

There being no further business, the regular meeting of February 25, 2025 was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

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The minutes were read and approved.